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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/598,197	08/21/2006	George Marmaropoulos	US040067US2	1792

24737 7590 07/07/2009
PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS
P.O. BOX 3001
BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510

EXAMINER

ANGLO, LHEIREN MAE ACOSTA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2833

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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07/07/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/598,197	Applicant(s) MARMAROPOULOS, GEORGE	
	Examiner LHEIREN MAE A. ANGLO	Art Unit 2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 August 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Burgess [US 6,121,869].

In regard to claim 1, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 25-46] a time-delay soft switch comprising: one or more first layers [110] of material having first elastomeric properties, said one or more first layers having at least one first electrically conductive surface [130]; and one or more second layers [120] of material having second elastomeric properties, said one or more second layers having at least one second electrically conductive surface [140], wherein said one or more first layers closely cover said one or more second layers.

In regard to claim 2, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1] that the at least one second electrically conductive surface is one or more third layers [140] of conductive material connected to said one or more second layers.

In regard to claim 3, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 25-46] that the first elastomeric properties of said one or more first layers are more responsive relative to said second elastomeric properties of said one or more second layers.

In regard to claim 4, Burgess teaches in [col. 1, lines 13-15] that the soft switch is seamlessly integrated into a pressure sensitive smart fabric application.

In regard to claim 5, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1] that the first and second electrically conductive surfaces are electrically connected [using 102 and 104] when the soft switch is in a relaxed state.

In regard to claim 6, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1] that the first and second electrically conductive surfaces are electrically connected when the soft switch is in a compressed state.

In regard to claim 7, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1] that the first and second electrically conductive surfaces electrically disconnect for a predefined period of time when the soft switch is compressed and released.

In regard to claim 8, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1] that the first and second electrically conductive surfaces electrically reconnect [using 102 and 104] after said predefined period of time.

In regard to claim 9, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1] that the predefined period of time is dependent on the first elastomeric properties of the one or more first layers of material and the second elastomeric properties of the one or more second layers of material.

In regard to claim 10, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 25-46] that the one or more first layers of material return to a relaxed state quicker than the one or more second layers of material when the soft switch is compressed and released.

In regard to claim 11, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 25-46] that the first elastomeric properties of the one or more first layers of material are less responsive relative to the second elastomeric properties of the one or more second layers of material.

In regard to claim 12, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1] that the at least one second electrically conductive surface is one or more third layers [140] of conductive material connected to said one or more second layers.

In regard to claim 13, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1 and col. 1, lines 13-15] that the soft switch is used in pressures sensitive smart fabric applications.

In regard to claim 14, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1] that the first and second electrically conductive surfaces are electrically disconnected when the soft switch is in a relaxed state.

In regard to claim 15, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1] that the first and second electrically conductive surfaces are electrically connected when the soft switch is in a compressed state.

In regard to claim 16, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1] that the first and second electrically conductive surfaces electrically connect for a predefined period of time when the soft switch is compressed and released.

In regard to claim 17, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1] that the first and second electrically conductive surfaces electrically re-disconnect after the predefined period of time.

In regard to claim 18, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1] that the predefined period of time is dependent on the first elastomeric properties of the one or more first layers of material and the second elastomeric properties of the one or more second layers of material.

In regard to claim 19, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1] that the one or more second layers of material return to a relaxed state faster than said one or more first layers of material when the soft switch is compressed and released.

In regard to claim 20, Burgess teaches in [Fig. 1] that the one or more first layers of material and said one or more second layers of material operatively cooperate to selectively connect and/or disconnect the first and second electrically conductive surfaces, and thereby close a circuit, for a predefined period of time via a pressure interaction.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LHEIREN MAE A. ANGLO whose telephone number is (571)272-2730. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Renee Luebke can be reached on (571) 272-2009. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2833

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/L. A. A./
Examiner, Art Unit 2833

/renee s luebke/
Renee Luebke
Supervisory Patent Examiner
AU 2833